IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

identifying a component;

obtaining parameter information comprising power characteristics of the component from nonvolatile memory;

configuring the operating system to operate the component and report power characteristics to an upstream device.

obtaining parameter information comprising power characteristics of a replacement component from nonvolatile memory;

configuring the operating system to operate the replacement component and report power characteristics to the upstream device.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the operating system is a cable modem operating system.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the component is a tuner.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein operating the component comprises varying RF transmission power.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein parameter information comprises IF output information.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein parameter information comprises band crossover frequency information.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein parameter information comprises IF AGC Gain Threshold information.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein parameter information comprises RF AGC Gain Threshold information.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein parameter information comprises component address information.

10.   (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

means for identifying a component;

means for obtaining parameter information comprising power characteristics of the component from nonvolatile memory;

means for configuring the operating system to operate the component and report power characteristics to an upstream device;

means for obtaining parameter information comprising power characteristics of a replacement component from nonvolatile memory;

means for configuring the operating system to operate the replacement component and report power characteristics to the upstream device.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the component is a cable modem tuner.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein operating the component comprises varying RF transmission power.

13.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein parameter information comprises IF output information.

14.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein parameter information comprises band crossover frequency information.

15.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein parameter information comprises IF AGC Gain Threshold information.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein parameter information comprises RF AGC Gain Threshold information.

17.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein parameter information comprises component address information.

18.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product, comprising:

computer code for identifying a component;

computer code for obtaining parameter information comprising power characteristics of the component from nonvolatile memory;

computer code for configuring the operating system to operate the component and report power characteristics to an upstream device.

computer code for obtaining parameter information comprising power characteristics of a replacement component from nonvolatile memory;

computer code for configuring the operating system to operate the replacement component and report power characteristics to the upstream device.

19.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the operating system is a cable modem operating system.

20.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the component is a tuner.

21.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein operating the component comprises varying RF transmission power.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein parameter information comprises IF output information.

23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein parameter information comprises band crossover frequency information.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein parameter information comprises IF AGC Gain Threshold information.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein parameter information comprises RF AGC Gain Threshold information.

26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein parameter information comprises component address information.

27. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

obtaining parameter information associated with a tuner from a nonvolatile memory;

characterizing the tuner using the parameter information, wherein the characterization allows the cable modem operating system to account for power characteristics and drive the tuner to transmit at a desired power level;

obtaining parameter information associated with a replacement tuner from the nonvolatile memory;

characterizing the tuner using the parameter information, wherein the characterization allows the cable modem operating system to account for power characteristics and drive the replacement tuner to transmit at a desired power level.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the nonvolatile memory is flash memory.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the tuner is a cable modem RF tuner.

30. (Previously Presented) A cable modem comprising:

a tuner;

a nonvolatile memory operable to store power characteristics associated with the tuner;

a volatile memory operable to temporarily maintain power characteristics;

a processor operable to run a cable modem operating system, wherein the cable modem operating system uses the power to drive the tuner to transmit at a desired power level.

31. (Previously Presented) The cable modem of claim 30, wherein the nonvolatile memory is flash memory.

32. (Previously Presented) The cable modem of claim 31, wherein the tuner is a cable modem RF tuner.

33. (Previously Presented) A cable modem comprising:

a tuner;

nonvolatile memory operable to store parameter information associated with the tuner;

a volatile memory operable to temporarily maintain parameter information;

a processor operable to run an operating system, wherein the operating system ~~to~~ reports power characteristics to an upstream device.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the nonvolatile memory is flash memory.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the tuner is a cable modem RF tuner.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein parameter information comprises IF output information.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein parameter information comprises band crossover frequency information.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein parameter information comprises IF AGC Gain Threshold information.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein parameter information comprises component address information.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the operating system is further operable to drive the tuner by varying RF transmission power.